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TCS-80248/65  
February 1965

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

# HSIANG-HSIANG EXPLOSIVES COMPLEX CHINA



CIA



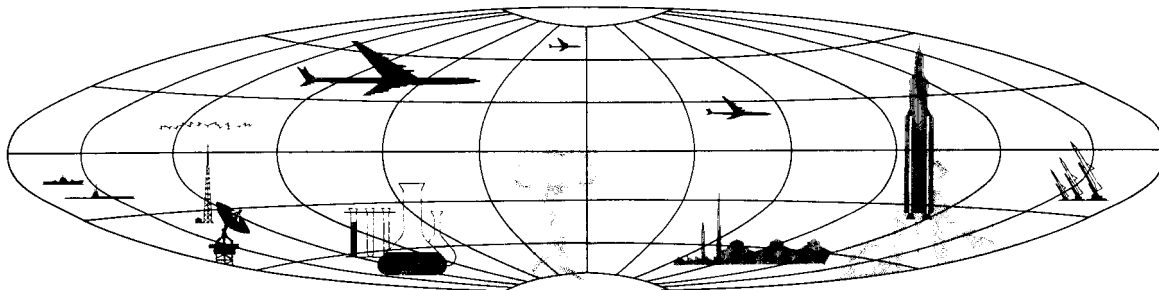
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**SUMMARY**

Recent photography, including KEYHOLE missions of [REDACTED] indicates that construction is continuing at the Hsiang-hsiang Explosives Complex, China. A new rail spur, a transloading building, and 8 explosives storage buildings have been added to the Loading and Storage Area since [REDACTED] expansion is also evident in the Factory Area and the Housing and Administration Area. The most highly secured portion of the complex, the Processing Area, has had the least amount of new construction. [REDACTED]

Hsiang-hsiang, China, and 13 nm west-south-west of Hsiang-tan at 27-50N 112-40E (Figure 1). This report describes the changes and new construction at the complex since publication of a previous report 1/ based on photography of [REDACTED]

Construction has continued throughout the complex (Figure 2). The most significant additions have been in the Loading and Storage Area where a new rail spur, an associated new transloading building, and 8 explosives storage buildings served by individual roads have been added since the [REDACTED] coverage. In the Factory Area a building under construction in [REDACTED] has been completed, 7 new buildings have been added, and another is under construction. The Processing Area, the most highly secured in the complex, has had the least amount of new construction; 2 support/

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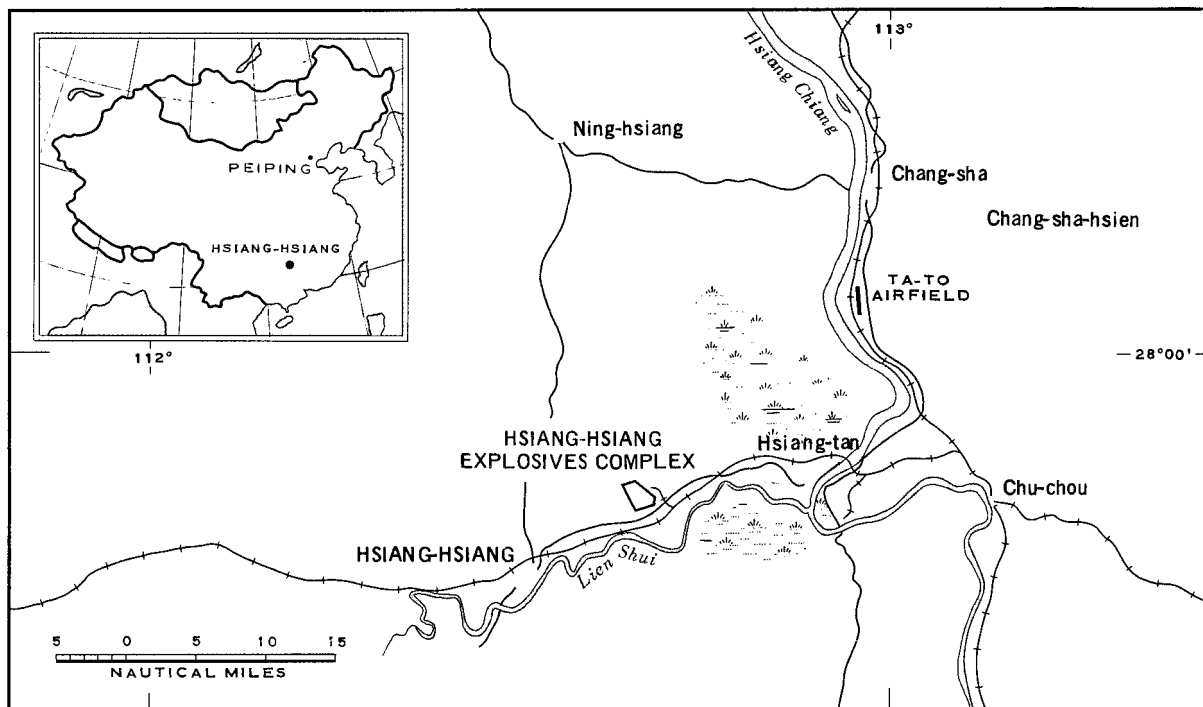
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**INTRODUCTION**

The Hsiang-hsiang Explosives Complex is located 9 nautical miles (nm) northeast of



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FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF HSIANG-HSIANG EXPLOSIVES COMPLEX, CHINA.

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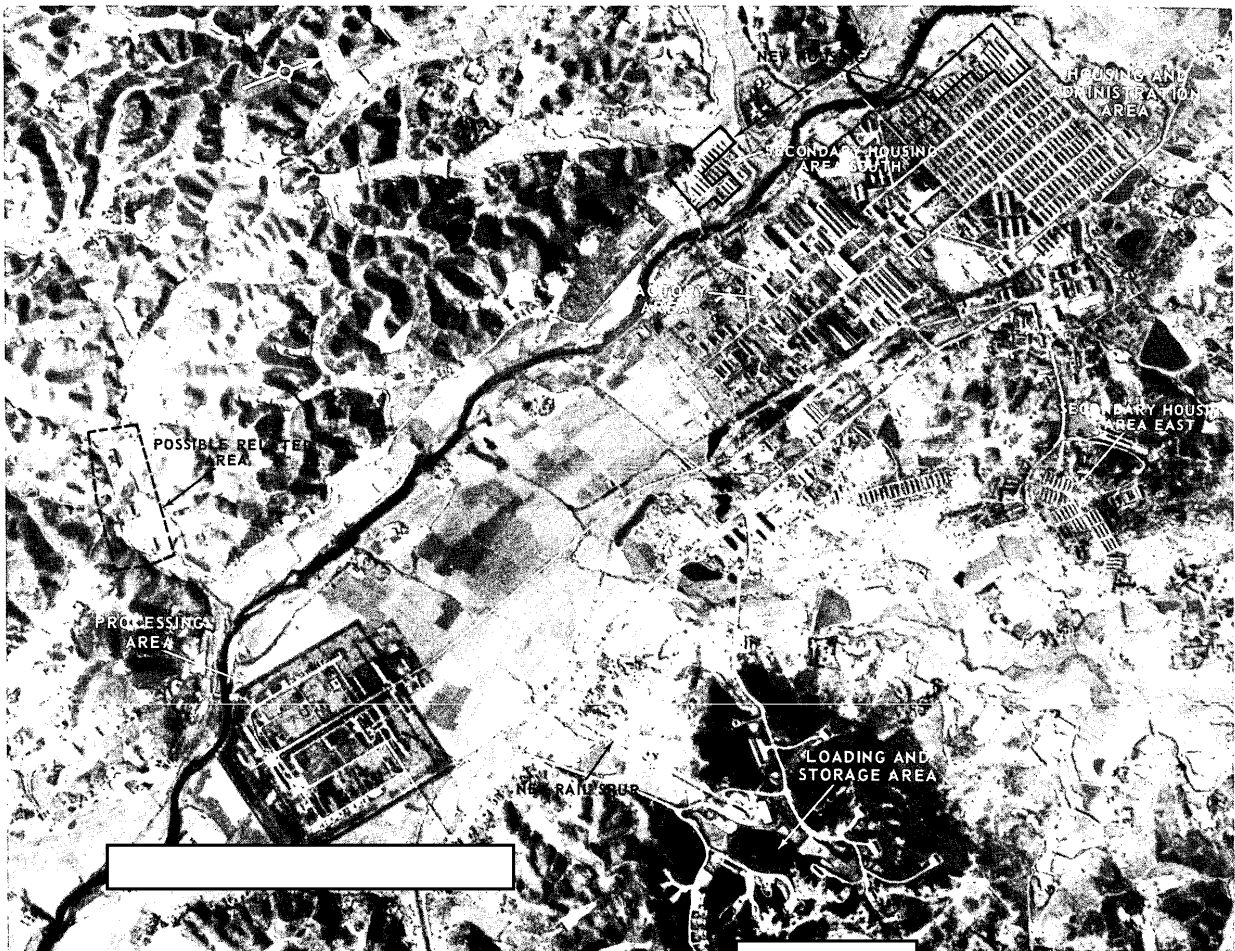


FIGURE 2. HSIANG-HSIANG EXPLOSIVES COMPLE

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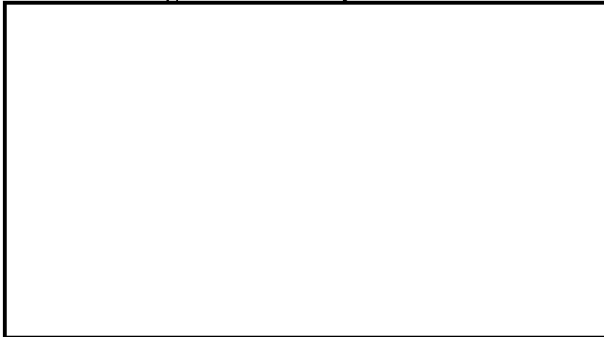
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storage buildings were added, 2 buildings were revetted, and the inner security wall was extended. Approximately 25 new single-story multifamily structures have been added in 2 of the housing areas. No significant changes have been observed since [ ] in the section designated Possibly Related Area.

**FACTORY AREA**

The Factory Area (Figure 3) is located in the northern portion of the complex and appears to be entirely surrounded by a wall. Smoke has never been observed coming from the boilerhouse stack in this area. The laboratory-type building under construction in the north-west corner of the site in [ ] has been completed, but a nearby large building which was also under construction at that time was apparently still incomplete in [ ]

[ ] At least 7 new buildings, 4 of which are storage-type structures, have been constructed in the Factory Area, and another was begun between [ ]

A drainage canal was constructed to drain a number of small ponds in the section north and east of the Factory Area rail spur; the drained land was subsequently filled and is apparently an area of expansion. The 4 new storage-type buildings and the building under construction are located in this drained and filled area, and existing roads were extended into it. A new road was built along the west margin of the drained area, parallel to the

rail spur. A number of new structures have also been built east of the drained area, outside the security wall.

A separately secured area adjacent to the southeast corner of the Factory Area contains a series of interconnected buildings straddling a loop road; this was previously designated as a part of the Special Handling Facilities, 1/ but it now appears to be a motor pool for the complex. It is outside the Factory Area security wall, the separate security provisions are neither complete nor significant, and vehicles can be observed within the pool on photography of both [ ]

The Burn Area/Proof Yards, located across the stream which borders the western edge of the Factory Area, have not changed since [ ]

[ ] There is no evidence of any high-explosives test points in this section.

A road from the Burn Area/Proof Yards continues south about 1 nm to 4 buildings, now designated Possibly Related Area (Figure 2) and formerly called New Construction. 1/ There is no apparent security around these buildings, and the lengths indicate that the buildings are probably storage structures. The largest of the 4 measures 215 by 65 feet; an open portion in the roof area of this building has not changed since photography of [ ]

**PROCESSING AREA**

The Processing Area (Figure 4) is located approximately 1 nm south of the Factory Area and is connected to it by a rail spur and a hard-surface road. There has been relatively little new construction in the Processing Area since the [ ] photography. 1/ Although this area was the most highly secured at the complex in [ ] security provisions have been further strengthened since that time.

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The inner security wall was extended to enclose the south side of the area; this new section of wall was first identified on photography of [REDACTED]. The fence outside the wall has apparently not been changed, but the southwest corner of the fence inside the wall was removed. A bridge observed on [REDACTED] photography near this corner of the area was removed prior to photography of [REDACTED] and roads serving the bridge were abandoned and the land returned to cultivation. This would indicate that the bridge was temporary and used only to transport construction materials across the stream to the site.

Only 2 new buildings have been added to the Processing Area, and both are apparently support or storage structures. These buildings were constructed between [REDACTED] [REDACTED] during the same time period earth revetments were added to 2 nearby buildings which were present in [REDACTED].

A feature previously identified as the transloading platform 1/ was apparently the early construction stage of an apron for the transloading facility. The apron was complete by the time of the most recent coverage, but not as discernible as on previous photography. This darker appearance suggests that the apron has been black topped and therefore blends with the adjacent vegetation.

#### LOADING AND STORAGE AREA

The storage capacity of the Loading and Storage Area, which is situated in hills north-east of the Processing Area, has been increased significantly since [REDACTED] (Figure 5). There have not been any changes in the area security provisions.

A new transloading building measuring 180 by 45 feet was built near the southern entrance to the area, and a new rail spur was constructed to the building. Both the building and the rail

spur were added to the area between [REDACTED] [REDACTED] during the same period a new road was constructed around the transloading building.

Eight new explosives storage buildings of various sizes have been added to the area since [REDACTED]. These buildings, which are individually served by new roads, are located in small valleys; this terrain provides good blast protection. Five of the buildings were constructed between [REDACTED] 1 between [REDACTED] and 2 between [REDACTED]. The last 2 were probably still under construction, but the small scale of the photography limits interpretation of details. The 3 larger buildings and the smaller building nearest to them are circled by narrow trails or ditches.

New construction began after photography of [REDACTED] at a location in the eastern section of the area. This new construction consists of a rectangular scarred area and road construction. The road pattern indicates that additional storage buildings will probably be built in this area.

#### HOUSING AND ADMINISTRATION AREA

New multifamily dwellings have been added to the Housing and Administration Area and the Secondary Housing Area South (Figure 2) since photography of [REDACTED]. No significant changes were observed in the administration section, and no additional apartment buildings have been constructed.

Three large shops in the northwest corner of the Housing and Administration Area, observed on [REDACTED] photography, were razed and 9 single-story multifamily structures replaced them. Additions were built on 8 nearby structures, doubling their size. Approximately 16 single-story multifamily structures have been added to the Secondary Housing Area South.

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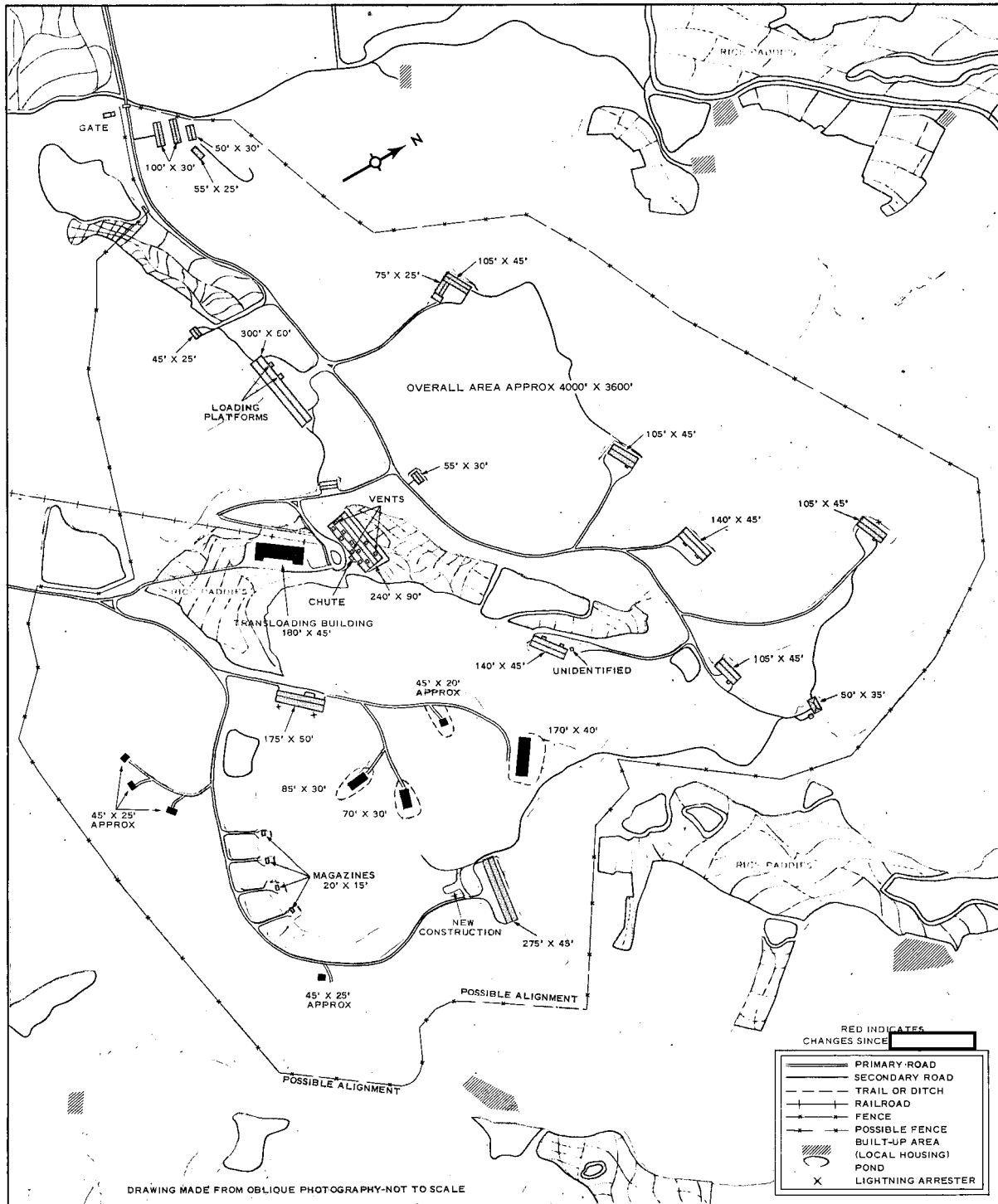


FIGURE 5. LOADING AND STORAGE AREA.

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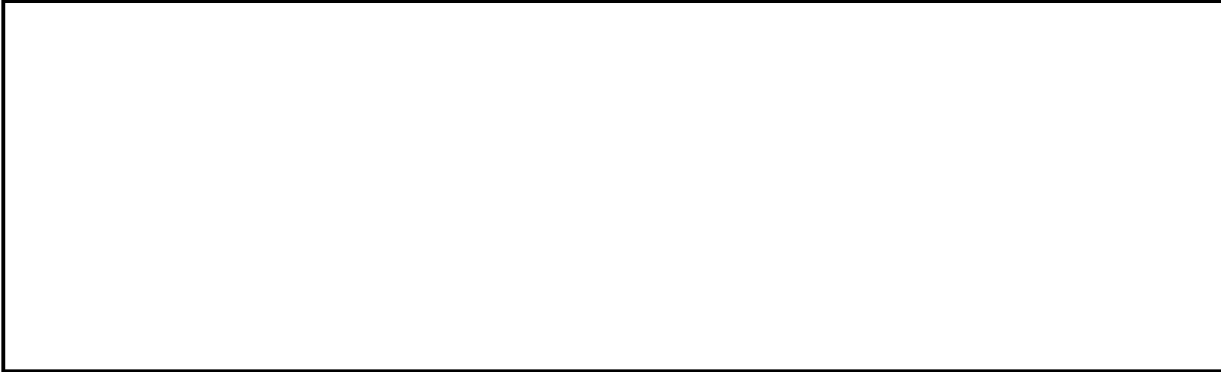
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REFERENCES



MAPS OR CHARTS

ACIC. USAF Operational Navigation Chart, Sheet ONC-H-11, 2d classified ed, 25 Mar 63, scale 1:1,000,000  
(CONFIDENTIAL)

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1. NPIC. R-1029/62, *Hsiang-hsiang Explosives Complex Near Hsiang-t'an, China*, Jul 62 (SECRET/No Foreign Dissem)

REQUIREMENT

CIA/OSI. C-SI5-82,158

NPIC PROJECT

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